to envisage self-sufficiency in the near future. However, several important steps have been taken to increase oil and gas production, which include the following:

(i) To improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/ Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes, in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.

(ii) To increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Under the first and second rounds of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for 47 blocks.

(iii) To attract technology and investment, PSCs for 9 discovered fields, 8 in Gujarat and 1 in Assam, were signed on 23.2.2001 with consortia of Indian and foreign companies.

(iv) To explore in new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also explore in the deeper layers of the producing fields.

(v) To develop faster the newly discovered fields and to step up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.

(vi) To acquire acreages abroad.

Production and marketing of CBM

3752. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken a survey on Coal Bed Methane proposals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have prepared plan for production and marketing of CBM in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The preliminary studies and Research and Development (R&D) activities undertaken have indicated the presence of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

(c) to (e) To harness the CBM potential in the country, as an alternate source of energy, the Government has approved the Policy for exploration and production of CBM (CBM Policy). Under this Policy, 5 blocks falling in the States of Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal have been awarded on the basis of International Competitive Bidding for exploration activities. The CBM Policy provides that the awardee will have the freedom to market the gas depending upon the commercial viability of the project.

Transportation of LPG

†3753. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the average kilometers being allotted to every tanker for LPG transportation in Northern India and the average allotted to the tankers running in Sawai Madhopur plant;

(b) whether more kilometers are allotted to the lower-rating transporters; if so, what are the rules and whether tankers running in Sawai Madhopur are also rated low; and

(c) the persons responsible for the loss to IOC if higher-rating tankers are run more and lower rating tankers of Sawai Madhopur are run less in terms of kilometers?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.